

His brother Jesus and sister Guadalupe had already relocated there. In 1968, their youngest son, Rogelio, was born at East Los Angeles Doctor's Hospital.

Jose found employment as an unskilled laborer, and worked for many years at the Aerol Company in the community of Glassel Park. He worked as a driver and assembly line manufacturer. During this time, Antonieta dedicated herself to raising her children and maintaining the household of seven in a one-bedroom apartment. Though they endured years of financial hardship and personal sacrifice, their children today marvel at the realization that although they were poor, they never once wanted for food or shelter. They rejoiced in the abundance of love that these two devoted people brought to their home.

In 1974, after eldest sons Jose and Jorge had left for college, Jose and Antonieta became part of a group of parents called Padres Unidos who were dissatisfied with the quality of education and facilities offered at Magnolia Elementary School, which their children had attended or were attending. They protested, boycotted, and risked arrest demanding adequate facilities and a quality education for their children.

Soon afterward, Antonieta began her second career as a Title III Education Aide with the Los Angeles Unified School District. She worked for the school district from 1976 to 1996. Jose Vargas retired in 1988.

Today, Jose and Antonieta take joy in the success of their children and grandchildren.

Their eldest son, Jose, graduated from California State University at Northridge and the Physician Assistant Program at the Martin Luther King, Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center. He is married to Juanita Perez and they have two children, Joel, age 17, and Justene, age 14. Jose is a Physician Assistant with a private medical doctor and his wife, Juanita, is a public school teacher in Los Angeles.

Son Jorge is a graduate of Pepperdine University and Southwest University College of Law. He has worked as an attorney with the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board, the Monterey County District Attorney, and presently with the California State Compensation Board. He lives in Salinas, California with his wife, Diane Peña, and two sons, Nicholas, age 15, and Benjamin, age 11.

Daughter Maria Antonieta graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles, UCLA, where she was a leader in an overnight camping program for disadvantaged

urban youth. She has been a senior manager in the private sector her entire career. An avid sports enthusiast, she lives in Long Beach, California.

Son Arturo graduated from Stanford University with bachelor's and master's degrees. He currently is the Executive Director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, NALEO, and resides in Los Angeles.

Youngest son Rogelio is a graduate of California State University at Northridge and a member of the Los Angeles City Fire Department. He is married to Kristin Fredrickson and has three children: Olivia, age 17 months, and three-month old fraternal twins, Daniela and Julia.

Today, Jose and Antonieta enjoy their retirement years in the Los Angeles community of Highland Park.

Mr. Speaker, as they embark upon the next fifty years of marriage, it gives me great pleasure to join family and friends who honor Jose and Antonieta Vargas with a commemorative mass and celebration on May 11, 2002. Jose and Antonieta exemplify what love, determination and honest, hard work bestow upon a marriage, a family, and the fortunate generations to follow. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying deserved tribute to two humble but immensely accomplished Americans.

#### THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, later in this debate we will be considering an amendment by the Gentleman from Texas, Mr. PAUL relating to the International Criminal Court. I am perplexed by this amendment, since, if it were binding, it would undermine our ability to defend U.S. servicemen and women, protects

war criminals, and express a profound distrust of the President of the United States. Although revising the amendment to make it non-binding was an improvement, the underlying policy suggested by the Amendment remains misguided.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Gentleman is opposed to the International Criminal Court, and this amendment is supposed to express that policy. Buy Mr. Chairman, that is already the policy of the United States. On Monday, the Administration announced that it would not ratify the Rome Statute which creates the Court, had given up on the court as a workable institution, and was not going to provide assistance to it.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, the language of this amendment simply goes too far and is fundamentally inconsistent with the national interest. In particular, the amendment provides that no funds may be used to "cooperate" with the court. Mr. Chairman, even opponents of the court should oppose this language. Let me give some examples of what the policy expressed in this amendment may prohibit:

It may prohibit the Defense Department from responding to the Court's investigators when they ask us for exonerating information on actions by U.S. Servicemen or women. Perversely, this would mean this amendment would make it more difficult for us to defend our own troops.

It may prevent us from allowing a member of the armed forces to testify on behalf of one of our NATO allies, who accept this treaty.

And it may prevent us from providing any information with respect to a prosecution of enemies of the United States. If a war crime is committed by Saddam Hussein in country which is a member of the court, and it does not prosecute him for political reasons, then under this amendment we could not help the Court prosecute Saddam.

Moreover, the subject of this amendment was already dealt with by the House in H.R. 1646, the State Department Authorization Act, which appears to be moving towards Conference. That is the proper venue for this topic.

Mr. Chairman, the President has announced his opposition to the Court. This amendment, represents an expression of profound distrust in our commander-in-chief. I think that in the middle of a war, that is the last thing we should be doing.